



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Huron-Manistee National Forests
Manistee Ranger Station
412 Red Apple Road
Manistee, Michigan 49660**

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File Code: 2300

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Dear Forest Visitor,

The Manistee Ranger District of the Huron-Manistee National Forest is working in partnership with several Manistee County Agencies to develop universally accessible fishing piers at two Manistee River Access Sites on National Forest System land; Rainbow Bend and Bear Creek. Manistee County has identified the need for universal access to the county water resources through an "Envisioning" process. The emphasis is on county shoreline access including the Manistee River. As part of that plan we would install accessible fishing piers, 2 to 5 at Rainbow Bend and 1 to 2 at Bear Creek, including associated walkways. The project is scheduled for 2010, with work beginning in the spring. Anglers with mobility challenges would be able to reach the piers from handicap parking sites. Universal access would benefit persons using wheelchairs, those who use canes or walkers, as well as people with strollers and small children. Everyone would be able to enjoy the piers for fishing in and viewing the Manistee Wild and Scenic Recreational River.

As part of this project, we also plan to pave the entrance road and parking area at Rainbow Bend. Currently the entrance road is frequently rutted and in need of grading after heavy rain, snowmelt and heavy use. Rainbow Bend is open all year, with snow plowing in the winter. Paving the road would improve visitor access and safety for vehicles with boats and trailers.

If you have any questions, please contact Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas at the Manistee Ranger Station, (231) 723-2211, Extension #3108.

Sincerely,

/s/Jim Thompson

JIM A. THOMPSON
District Ranger

